

**Meeting Date:** November 6, 2008

**Agenda Item No. 13**

**Agenda Item: Wolf Monitoring Techniques**

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Brad Compton for Mike Mitchell (Univ. of Montana)

**Background:**

Current population monitoring efforts for gray wolves in Idaho are primarily based on the use of radio collars and incidental observations by personnel or members of the public. Use of radio collars to estimate population size requires intensive effort and is logistically difficult in remote locations. Reliability of incidental observations varies.

Two years ago, the Department began collaborating with the Nez Perce Tribe and the University of Montana to develop more efficient and less costly methods for monitoring gray wolf population size and distribution.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

The state of Idaho has a signed cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Interior authorizing the Department to conduct gray wolf monitoring activities. Funds used for monitoring and field investigations are congressional appropriations provided through the Nez Perce Tribe and Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

**Public Involvement Process:**

None.

**Staff Recommendation:**

None. This agenda item is to provide information to the Commission on new technologies being used to improve effectiveness and efficiency of gray wolf monitoring efforts.

**Justification:**

Information only.